

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A die press, comprising:  
2                             a base;  
3                             opposing first and second supports extending from the base;  
4                             at least one cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;  
5                             means for rotating the cam member;  
6                             at least one bearing located on the cam member;  
7                             a platen positioned generally between the at least one bearing and the  
8             base;  
9                             and a cover being unitary with the platen, the cover being slidably  
10            engaged with the opposing supports to guide the platen during operation of the die  
11            press.

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13                   2.     The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover has a first end  
14     that is slidably engaged with the first support, and a second end that is slidably engaged with  
15     the second support.

16                   3.     The die press according to Claim 2, wherein the cover has a first end  
17     cap and a second end cap so that the first and second supports are generally encompassed.

18                   4.     The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover includes at least  
19     one stiffening component.

20                   5.     The die press according to Claim 4, wherein the stiffening component  
21     is at least one rib.

22                   6.     The die press according to Claim 5, wherein the at least one rib is  
23     located internally of the cover.

24                   7.     The die press according to Claim 4, wherein the cover includes a  
25     plurality of ribs.

26                   8.     The die press according to Claim 7, wherein at least one rib includes at  
27 least one cutout to accomodate the at the least one bearing.

28                   9.     The die press according to Claim 7, wherein the ribs include cutouts to  
29 accomodate a plurality of bearings located on the cam member.

30                   10.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is attached to  
31 the platen.

32                   11.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the means for rotating the  
33 cam member includes a lever member extending from the cam member.

34                   12.    The die press according to Claim 11, wherein the lever member is a  
35 handle extending from the cam member.

36                   13.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the rotation of the cam  
37 member provides for movement of the platen.

38                   14.    The die press according to Claim 13, wherein forces are transferred  
39 from the cam member to the platen when the cam member is rotated.

40                   15.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the platen is an upper  
41 platen.

42                   16.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the die press further  
43 includes means for feeding a die into a working area between the platen and the base.

44                   17.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the die press further  
45 includes means for feeding a shuttle into a working area between the platen and the base.

46                   18.    The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the base further includes a  
47 pair of opposing rails defining a track.

48                   19.    The die press according to Claim 18, wherein each rail further includes  
49 a cutout.

50                   20.     The die press according to Claim 19, wherein the cutouts oppose each  
51     other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a  
52     working area between the platen and the base.

53                   21.     The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the opposing supports  
54     have front and rear surfaces, and the cover is slidably engaged with the opposing supports at  
55     the front and rear surfaces of the opposing supports to guide the upper platen during  
56     operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

57                   22.     The die press according to Claim 20, wherein the opposing supports  
58     have front and rear surfaces, and the cover is slidably engaged with the opposing supports at  
59     the front and rear surfaces of the opposing supports to guide the upper platen during  
60     operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

61                   23.     The die press according to Claim 18, wherein the base further includes  
62     a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

63                   24.     A die press, comprising:  
64                             a base;  
65                             opposing first and second supports extending from the base;  
66                             a cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;  
67                             means for rotating the cam member;  
68                             a plurality of bearings located on the cam member;  
69                             an upper platen positioned generally between the bearings and the  
70     base; and  
71                             a cover being attached to the platen to define a unitary structure, the  
72     cover being slidably engaged with the opposing supports to guide the upper platen  
73     during operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

74                   25.     The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the cover includes a  
75     plurality of stiffening ribs.

76                   26.     The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the die press further  
77     includes means for feeding a die into a working area between the platen and the base.

78                   27.     The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the die press further  
79     includes means for feeding a shuttle into a working area between the platen and the base.

80                   28.     The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the base further includes  
81     a pair of opposing rails defining a track.

82                   29.     The die press according to Claim 28, wherein each rail further includes  
83     a cutout.

84                   30.     The die press according to Claim 29, wherein the cutouts oppose each  
85     other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a  
86     working area between the platen and the base.

87                   31.     The die press according to Claim 28, wherein the base further includes  
88     a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

89                   32.     A die press, comprising:  
90                   a base;  
91                   at least two opposing supports extending from the base;  
92                   at least one cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;  
93                   a handle extending from the cam member;  
94                   an upper platen positioned between the bearings and the base, the base further  
95     including at least two rails extending from the base, the rails being adapted to support a die.

96                   33.     The die press according to Claim 32, wherein the base further includes  
97     a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

98                    34.     The die press according to Claim 32, wherein each rail further includes  
99     a cutout.  
100                   35.     The die press according to Claim 34, wherein the cutouts oppose each  
101     other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a  
102     working area between the platen and the base.  
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